

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 were examined and reported in the Office Action. Claim 1 is rejected. Claim 7 is canceled. Claims 1 and 2 are amended. New claims 8-13 are added. Claims 1-6 and 8-13 remain.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

I. Claim Objections

It is asserted in the Office Action that claim 1 is objected for informalities. Applicant has amended claim 1 to overcome the informal objections.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the informal objections for claim1 is respectfully requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

It is asserted in the Office Action that claim1 is rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U. S. Patent 6,002,433 issued to Watanabe et al ("Watanabe").

It is asserted in the Office Action that claim 7 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include all the limitations of claim 7. Therefore, Applicant asserts that claim 1 is now placed in allowable form.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections for claim1 is respectfully requested.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's assertion that claims 2-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As asserted above, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 7 to place claim 1 in allowable form.

Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-6 and 8-13, as they now stand, are allowable for the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-6 and 8-13 patentably define the subject invention over the cited references of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in moving the case forward, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: June 21, 2007

By: 
Steven Laut, Reg. No. 47,736

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS Web on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.


Jean Syoboda

Date: June 21, 2007